Cess on Wakf properties

†2838. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level central panel for the minorities has suggested that five per cent cess may be imposed on all the properties of the Wakfs and the money so collected may be used for providing modem education to the children of muslim community;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the view taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the Wakf Act would also be amended for the purpose and if so, by when this process would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities are under consideration of the Government.

Schemes for welfare of minorities

†2839. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes being implemented by Government for the welfare of minorities, alongwith the achievements thereof, State-wise and religion-wise;

(b) the details of efforts being made by Government for return of the Hindu minorities of Jammu and Kashmir with honour; and

(c) the details of the security measures adopted by Government in Assam for Hindi speaking minorities and also the details of the resettlement/other assistance provided to the next of kin of those Hindi speaking persons who have been killed there?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, a merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme for technical and professional courses, free coaching and allied scheme and the schemes implemented by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and Central Wakf Council are among the programmes/schemes being implemented for the welfare of minorities. The details of the schemes are available in the Ministry's website "*www.minorityaffairs.gov.in*".

(b) The policy of the Government is that Kashmiri migrants should return once the conditions are conducive for their safe and dignified return. For facilitating the return of migrants to the Valley, the Central Government approved the construction of 200 flats at Sheikhpora in Budgam District. Shrines in Mattan and Kheer Bhavani

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have been developed into two model clusters containing temporary shelters for Kashmiri migrants, where the Kashmiri migrants displaced from these places could be settled temporarily, till such time they can repair their existing residential houses. The State Government have constructed 18 flats at Mattan and 100 one-room tenements at Kheer Bhavani.

(c) The Government has been maintaining close and continuous coordination with the State Government of Assam and supplementing their efforts on a continuing basis with aim of putting in place effective measures for providing security to vulnerable Hindi speaking persons in the State. Steps taken in this regard include *inter alia* deployment of Central Security Forces, including the Army, to assist the State police, sharing of intelligence, strengthening and modernization of local police, reimbursement of security related expenditure, etc. *Ex-gratia* grant is given by the State Government to the next of kin of the persons killed in the violence.

Energy from urban wastes

2840. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Accelerated Programme on Energy Recovery from urban wastes;

(b) whether any project has been undertaken under this programme in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that production of 2,000 MW of power has been targeted for 2006-07 under this programme; and

(e) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The main objectives of the Programme are to promote setting up of projects for recovery of energy from urban wastes; creation of conducive conditions and environment including fiscal and financial regime to develop and demonstrate projects for recovery of energy from wastes; and, harnessing of the available potential.

(b) and (c) No projects have so far been set up under the Accelerated Programme since its commencement in July, 2005.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Celebration of Akshay Urja Diwas

2841. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently celebrated Akshay Urja Diwas on 20th August, 2007, highlighting through newspaper advertisements the renewable energy programmes and plans and some minor activities;